## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

April 30, 2001 LB 543

I will say that it's been amazing to find out how many people are really interested in the state Legislature, specifically when it comes to the budget, because I think I've received probably half a dozen e-mails in the last half hour from the university. So at least they're watching today, if no one else. But I've been trying to find out some details on where the \$57 million is going to be spent that we're going to allocate in addition to the money that they requested. And I thank Senator Wehrbein for his time and coming up and talking with me about my amendment prior. And, if you'll go through the bound copy of the budget, you'll find out where a lot of that money is being spent as well. But I had the opportunity this afternoon, during lunch, to talk to our Chancellor, Mr. Perlman, about where the money will be going, and it seems to me like there's two different discussions or two different stories out there on where that money is going. One, it says that the tuition increase will cover utilities, maintenance, but the primary goal of the tuition increase will cover need-based scholarships in quality and academic programs. The funding that we are going to give...propose, the \$57 million increase, or that amount, is going to cover the cost of teachers and professors, excuse me, at the university. And so what I asked was, well, if that's the case, then how come the tuition increase is being sold as covering the cost of professors' salaries, when we are already doing that? And so essentially what I'm doing is not questioning the...the integrity or the motives of the university system, I'm not questioning that, but I'm looking at the standpoint that we have an opportunity here to examine the budget for funding; we have an opportunity here to look and try and find some money within a \$5.5 billion budget that could be spent within our means, and that's essentially what...what we're trying to accomplish, at least that's what I'm trying to in addition to holding true to some of the accomplish, commitments that...that we have made. So I have received some interesting e-mails. Some of them have informed me that the university is a land-grant institution, which I appreciate. I think more people need to understand that, but since I have a degree from there I'm well aware of that. And I think what's being misled probably by somebody is that I'm actually out there cutting into the university's existing budget somehow. actually all I'm saying is we're going to hold you